



City Council Special Meeting Minutes - Draft
Monday, June 01, 2020, 7:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION

NOTE: Please see the published Agenda Packet for all item file attachments

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Ellen Burton, Bonnie Carter, Don Chaney, Steve Hogan and Shannon Roberts

Excused: Melissa Smith

Staff: James Carothers, Jennifer Gorsuch, Cathy Huber Nickerson, Shawn MacPherson, Heather Rowley and Steve Wall

Press: No one from the press was present

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Damon Webster from Mackay Sposito, Vancouver, commented about the Parker Estates Pond Rehabilitation.

Phil Williams, 936 NE 41st Ave, Camas, commented about communication.

Marie Tabata-Callerame, 5724 NW El Rey Drive, Camas, commented about the Lacamas biofilter and algae blooms.

Scott Hogg, 3533 Norwood Street, Camas, commented about communication and infrastructure costs.

Additional public comments received via publiccomments@cityofcamas.us are attached to these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA

NOTE: Consent Agenda items may be removed for general discussion or action.

1. May 18, 2020 Camas City Council Special Meeting Minutes - Draft
2. Automated \$425,629.22 Automated Clearing House and Claim Checks Numbered 144431 to 144514, \$2,141,756.21 Automated Clearing House, Direct Deposit and

Payroll Checks Numbered 7843 to 7846 and Payroll Accounts Payable Checks
Numbered 144426 through 144430, \$2,042,165.17 May Electronic Payments

It was moved by Council Member Roberts, and seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Carter commented about the #CamasUnites fundraiser.

Roberts commented about Clark County's COVID Phase 2 application.

Chaney commented about Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency's (CRESA) budget.

Burton commented about Camas businesses.

MAYOR

Mayor Pro Tem had no announcements.

MEETING ITEMS

3. City of Camas Proclamation of Civil Emergency COVID-19
Presenter: Jennifer Gorsuch, Administrative Services Director

Gorsuch presented the proclamation and discussion ensued.

It was moved by Council Member Roberts, and seconded, that the April 6, 2020 motion confirming the Proclamation of Civil Emergency for COVID-19 dated March 18, 2020, and the Supplement dated April 15, 2020, be reaffirmed. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Six Year Transportation Improvement Program Public Hearing
Presenter: James Carothers, Engineering Manager

Carothers provided an overview of the proposed transportation plan and responded to Council's questions.

Mayor Pro Tem opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

The following members of the public provided comments:

Mahsa Esghi, 729 NW Grand Ridge Dr, Camas

Scott Hogg, 3533 Norwood Street, Camas

John Ley, 444 NW Fremont Street, Camas

Phil Williams, 936 NE 41st Ave, Camas

The public hearing closed at 7:45 p.m.

Carothers and Wall responded to Council's questions.

It was moved by Council Member Chaney, and seconded, to approve the Six Year Transportation Improvement with the modification to include safety improvements to the intersection of NW Grand Ridge Drive and NW Brady Road and to direct the City Attorney to prepare a resolution for the Council's consideration at the next Council meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Resolution No. 20-005 Revising the School Speed Zone Limits for Woodburn Elementary School
Presenter: James Carothers, Engineering Manager

Carothers provided an overview of the proposed speed revisions.

It was moved by Council Member Carter, and seconded, that Resolution No. 20-005, be read by title only. The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Council Member Carter, and seconded, that Resolution No. 20-005, be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Ley, 444 NW Fremont Street, Camas, commented about communication.

COUNCIL COMMENTS CONTINUED

Council Member Chaney thanked the Mayor Pro Tem.

Council Member Carter commented about the current civil unrest.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

From: [Douglas Strabel](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: CITY COUNCIL MEETING 06012020
Date: Monday, June 1, 2020 5:07:21 PM
Attachments: [06012020 - COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC COMMENTS.pdf](#)

Attached are my comments for review during the public comments portion of the City Council meeting scheduled for Monday 06/01/2020.

**The topic is:
City Update on EXPENSE REDUCTION**

thank you.....Douglas Strabel

Firstly...Thank You Mayor McDonnell for your Video response addressing many of the Financial Issues and making plans for the future.

I think you would agree that the City of Camas would like to avoid the "Oh S... Moment" that other Municipalities, Counties, States and the US Treasury is going to face in the future.

Camas needs to get ahead of the REVENUE shortfalls that are coming in the years ahead.

To that point still outstanding are the following:

Since the 2019/2020 budget goes through the end of the year what is the LINE ITEM DETAIL of the \$191K monthly PHASE 1 Spending Cuts beyond what you covered in your 5/28/2020 video??

Maintaining a 17% reserve was stated as being the line in the sand BEFORE it is necessary to implement Phase 2.

What are the LINE ITEM DETAILS of the PHASE 2, 3 and 4??

When do the TAXPAYERS see the WHOLE PLAN??

Where is the TOTAL PLAN for 2020??

What are your plans for the rest of the year? How much do you believe you need to save in spending for the next 7 months?

EXPENSE REDUCTION

One of the key elements to address is EXPENSE REDUCTION. Make the plan for deep cuts now:

- ***Redo the balance of the remaining 2020 budget with an 18% target reduction in TOTAL spending***

- ***Take the same approach with the upcoming 2021/2022 budget process***
- ***Start with a hiring freeze – including City Administrator and any other replacement positions***
- ***Stop OT now – Right now it is running at 6% of payroll for the last 2.5 years***
- ***Stop Incentive Payouts – 3% of payroll for the last 2.5 years
- Does anybody know what that really is?***
- ***No COLA in 2020/2021***
- ***Take a hard look at reassignment of idled staff for better utilization of available time***
- ***Consultants and Outside Contractors – have these been reviewed and only allowed to work on City Critical items.
Has the WSP Contract been reviewed?***

And most importantly!!!

Nobody buys anything discretionary or any capital items even though it is in the budget

Additionally has the City addressed the following??

- ***Renegotiation of Service Contracts***

It still seems like the GOAL of this whole exercise is to TRACK SPENDING.

The GOAL should be REDUCE SPENDING!!

***This needs to be a PROACTIVE vs.
REACTIVE Process.***

From: [Mahsa Eshghi](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Council Meeting - June 01 - Public comments
Date: Monday, June 1, 2020 5:58:26 PM

Dear City and Council Members,

My name is Mahsa Eshghi, resident at 729 NW Grand Ridge Dr, Camas. I'd like to make a public comment and talk about Brady Road improvements during today's meeting. I want to ask City to consider full street improvements for this segment of Brady Road and bring it to the City standards. In addition to the pedestrian and bike improvements, the road travel lane widths need to be wider and turning lanes need to be added at the intersections to increase the traffic safety. Considering Brady Road as a major road serving so many neighborhoods, it is important to have a safe access for all modes of transportation.

Best Regards,
Mahsa

From: [Phil Williams](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: City Council Public Comment - 6/1/20
Date: Monday, June 1, 2020 7:10:36 PM

Hello,

During the last council meeting I was denied my full time to speak and I'm hopeful that won't happen again tonight. I have three minutes and I intend to use them uninterrupted as my neighbors do.

This city operates too often from fear in my opinion. Passing restrictive resolutions on citizen speech and starting meetings with lengthy defensive preambles that seem to presuppose guilt before accusation, as if it was borne of a fear of what's to come. In reality, in our beautiful corner of SW Washington, the people of Camas are so much more reasonable in public exchanges than this bodies constant defensive actions would suggest. We are well spoken, professional and reasoned on the whole - especially when compared to other municipalities with real questions that many of us need real answers to - a lot of citizens don't have the patience that Camas demonstrates week after week with this group. If anyone listening doesn't believe that, cross the bridge into Portland once and awhile and see what it can look like when you get a real raw take from a broader swath of the public.

My fellow citizens that comment to this city council are good people trying to be heard. They volunteer their time during public comment, time spent away from their families, with the hope that they might have a hand in improving life in this city for those families, along with their friends and neighbors. They suggest things like financial oversight committees that would help clarify spending, tree stewardship programs that would help keep Camas lush and green, biofilter repairs that may save our threatened lakes - just a few examples with little to no spend attached. And on top of volunteering those ideas, they offer their time and their commitment. Time to help arrange the structures of these efforts and even serve on them as well. Yet repeatedly and without an explanation worth their effort, all of that beautiful, wonderful, selfless energy falls flat on the floor of these meetings, ignored or half answered at best.

The depth of the mayor's latest few responses, provided in a video on the otherwise abandoned public comments page after a full month of delay is frankly unacceptable. This is so far off the path from the transparency Camas was promised. Citizens were literally asked to "go ask the assessors office" after a month long delay. Citizens were made to wait weeks and weeks past the promised deadline for half attempted answers like, "no further research has been done to answer this question, because there are not currently plans to do XYZ". Well there aren't plans to do a lot of bad things, until they are, and then it's often too late to discuss, or is that the point?

The question was asked if the term legacy lands actually meant something in legal terms, it doesn't, and it took this city almost an entire month passed the one week promised turnaround to make a false equivocation that Rose property contractual language was related to contractual language for the other few properties the city spent over \$20m dollars to acquire, and mostly during a global pandemic and pending economic fallout from this moment. None of that answers the question of if a legacy land has any meaningful legal protection. Again, it doesn't.

As I'd expressed, it's my opinion that this group governs through a good deal of fear. I don't believe you're afraid of the people of Camas though, I think what you're actually afraid of is a date in November next year when three members of this council will be asked by this city to answer for their actions during this moment and many before it. We're here now, and we'll be there then.

From: [MARGARET TWEET](#)
To: [Public Comments](#)
Subject: Lake Water Quality
Date: Monday, June 1, 2020 7:23:00 PM

To the Mayor and Council.

Please consider what steps the city can take to improve water quality at LaCamas Lake.

The city found \$71,000 for work on a pond near Parker Estates. What has the city done about the biofilter at LaCamas Shores subdivision? Are there any plans to help repair the reportedly failed biofilter?

What impact do motorized watercraft have on water quality in LaCamas Lake? Has any consideration been given to possible restrictions on motorized watercraft in light of the increasing frequency of warnings about toxic algae in LaCamas Lake?

Lastly, my question about whether the city is now recruiting or has already hired an economic development manager has not been answered. I read the state audit reports and findings related to CWEDA and wonder how the city allowed city funds to be utilized without basic financial accounting from 2011-2019. The generous salary of 9,700-\$11,000 paid to former Camas Mayor Paul Dennis for an average of 4 hours of work seems excessive, especially with no financial reporting or accountability required.

Perhaps Camas can utilize the services of CREDC this year instead of hiring a full time economic development manager to replace the CWEDA director who resigned, and save funds for higher priority projects like road repair and improved water quality in the lakes.

Thank you for your consideration. Margaret Tweet